

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, SP

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION,
AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 15, IN NEW YORK

REF: STATE 131424; STATE 134431

1. EMBASSY DELIVERED COPY OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S PRESS STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBANEZ, CHIEF OF SPAIN'S DELEGATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. IBANEZ WILL ATTEND THE NEW YORK SESSION. HE ASSURED US THAT SPAIN LOOKS UPON THIS MEETING AS AN IMPORTANT NEGOTIATING SESSION AND IS PREPARING ITS POSITIONS ACCORDINGLY. HE WAS CRITICAL THOUGH OF THE DECISION TO HOLD THIS MEETING SO SOON AFTER GENEVA. THIS DID NOT REALLY ALLOW THE DELEGATIONS SUFFICIENT TIME TO CARRY OUT GOVERNMENT WIDE CONSULTATIONS ON DIFFICULT ISSUES AND THUS COULD IMPAIR THE ABILITY OF SOME TO COME UP WITH NEW OR REVISED POSITIONS.

2. IBANEZ SAID THAT SPAIN WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE. HE WAS WORRIED THOUGH ABOUT THE INCLINATION OF SOME NATIONS (UNNAMED) TO PRESS FOR A PREMATURE AGREEMENT THAT WOULD EITHER
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GLOSS OVER OR NOT TREAT SOME OF THE MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES. SUCH A COURSE WOULD LEAD TO A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF NON-RATIFICATIONS, OR TROUBLE IN IMPLEMENTATION. SPAIN PREFERS TO KEEP ON WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE AS MANY OF THE ISSUES AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF IT TAKES SEVERAL MORE FULL SCALE SESSIONS.

3. IBANEZ ASKED HOW AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON SAW THE AUGUST SESSION WORKING OUT. DID WE ANTICIPATE ANOTHER STRUGGLE OVER AMERASINGHE? SPAIN BELIEVES THAT WHILE AMERASINGHE IS OBVIOUSLY WELL QUALIFIED TECHNICALLY, HE HAS LOST THE "MORAL FORCE" NEEDED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE CHAIRMAN. IBANEZ ALSO ASKED IF THE U.S. SAW THIS SESSION AS A CONTINUATION OF THE GENEVA MEETING, WITH THE SAME WORKING GROUPS AND CHAIRMEN; OR WOULD WE PUSH FOR NEW PROCEDURES THAT MIGHT SPEED UP THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN WHAT OUR VIEWS WERE ON HOW THE NEW TREATY (WHEN FINALLY APPROVED) WOULD MESH WITH EXISTING BILATERAL OR REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IBANEZ SAID THAT IF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON WAS PLANNING A PRE-CONFERENCE ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS IN EUROPE HE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE HIM TO STOP OVER IN MADRID. EATON

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Message Attributes

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